المجلس الإسلامي
Islamic Council

29 March 1993

Mr John Major MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing St
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

On the eve of President Mubarak's meeting with you, we seek your good offices for an end to serious violations of human rights in Egypt.

It is a fact that not for a single day since taking office in 1981, has President Mubarak ruled Egypt without recourse to emergency laws, special courts and an iron-fist policy. During his presidency, tens of thousands of people have been arrested, held in prisons incommunicado, denied access to lawyers (and family) and subjected to severe physical and mental torture. Those acquitted by the courts are routinely re-arrested immediately and thrown back into prison.

The continuously worsening situation with regard to human rights has been documented by such organisations as Amnesty International, the US Department of State's Human Rights section and Middle East Watch. For example, in May 1989, Amnesty Inernational published a report under the title:'Egypt, Arbitrary Detentions and Torture Under Emergency Laws', in October 1991 'Egypt: Ten Years of Torture', and in January 1992 'Egypt, Security Police Detentions Undermine the Rule of Law'.

Prime Minister, an ever-hardening policy of suppression in modern times has invariably proved to be counter-productive and has strengthened the people's determination to strive with greater vigour for their inalienable right to the rule of law, democracy and the respect for human rights. This is what is happening in Egypt today. For example, the Egyptian authorities have recently had to deploy a heavily armed force of 12,000 to suppress the people of one district (Imbabah) alone.

The situation is deteriorating alarmingly and many are now gravely concerned that President Mubarak's policy of repression will result in a major tragedy which would destabilise not only Egypt but the entire region. It is our belief that only respect for human rights, the rule of law and a widening of the democratic process in Egypt can avert this and we appeal to you to take up this whole issue with President Mubarak during your meeting with him.
With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam (Secretary General)

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Foreign &
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From The Minister of State

16 April 1993

Mr Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16 Grosvenor Crescent
LONDON
SW1

Dear Mr Azzam

Thank you for your letter of 29 March to the Prime Minister about the situation in Egypt. I am replying as the Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for North Africa.

The Prime Minister's discussions with President Mubarak were confidential. However, we take reports of human rights abuses very seriously wherever they occur. We shall continue to be in close touch with individuals and organisations who are active in the human rights field in Egypt, and to maintain a dialogue with the Egyptian authorities.

Yours sincerely

Douglas Hogg